

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00 COA-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-10 L-03 NSF-04

NSC-10 NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SCI-06 SS-20 SPC-03 DRC-01

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P 241630Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 635

INFO USMISSION NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 8003

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AR BR UNGA

SUBJ: 28TH GA--ITEM 50: ARGENTINE DRAFT RESOLUTION

REF: USUN 4991

1. EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH BRAZILIAN POSITION WITH REGARD TO SUBJECT RESOLUTION WITH CHIEF OF AMERICAS DEPARTMENT (AMBASSADOR EXPEDITO RESENDE). AMERICAS DEPARTMENT, WITH JURISDICTION OVER RIVER PLATE AFFAIRS, IS ACTION OFFICE IN FOREIGN MINISTER RATHER THAN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS STAFF. HOWEVER, FACT THAT RESENDE IS HANDLING MATTER IS ALSO INDICATIVE OF IMPORTANCE ATTRIBUTED TO RESOLUTION BY GOB.

2. RESEND STATED THAT BRAZILIAN POSITION WAS SIMPLE. THEY COULD SEE NO VALIDITY TO UN RATIFICATION OF NON-ALLIGNED CONFERENCE RESOLUTION. FIRST TWO OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS COULD CAUSE NO PROBLEMS TO BRAZIL (CONVERSATION WAS PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REFTEL WITH ADDITION OF "SHARING SUCH NATURAL RESOURCES" IN SECOND OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH). FOREIGN MINISTRY INTERPRETED SUCH PARAGRAPHS TO REFER TO RIVERS FORMING BOUNDARIES BETWEEN STATES. RIVERS WHICH RUN FROM ONE STATE INTO ANOTHER WERE
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NOT AFFECTED. THROUGH THE RIVER PLATE TREATY AND NUMEROUS

RESOLUTIONS UNDER THAT SYSTEM, ARGENTINA HAD RECOGNIZED THE STATUS OF THE PARANA RIVER AS FLOWING WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE BRAZILIAN INTERPRETATION AND ITS USE AS BEING LIMITED ONLY BY TREATY COMMITMENTS.

3. THIRD OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH WHICH IN BRAZILIAN VIEW GRANTS SUPRANATIONAL POWERS TO ENVIRONMENT AGENCY IS THE CRUX OF THE BRAZILIAN REPUDIATION OF THE ARGENTINE RESOLUTION. THEY CONSIDER THIS PARAGRAPH CONTRARY TO ARTICLE 2, SUBPARAGRAPH 7 OF THE UN CHARTER AND CONSIDER PARANA RIVER AN "INTERNAL BRAZILIAN MATTER." IN AN ASIDE, RESENDE STATED THAT HE COULD NOT CONCEIVE OF ANY POWER ON EARTH WHICH COULD IMPEDE CONSTRUCTION OF ITAIPU DAM. IT WAS INTOLERABLE TO BRAZIL THAT PRINCIPLE WOULD BE ACCEPTED THAT CONSTRUCTION OF DAM WOULD BE SUBJECT TO POLITICAL WHIMS OF ARGENTINA. LEGALLY, OF COURSE, THE RESOLUTION WOULD NOT BE BINDING. IF NECESSARY, BRAZIL WOULD ACCEPT THE POLITICAL DEFEAT INVOLVED IF THE RESOLUTION SHOULD PASS.

4. EMBASSY OFFICER EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT RESENDE HAD NOT TALKED PREVIOUSLY WITH EMBASSY ON SUBJECT AND THAT APPARENTLY BRAZILIAN DELEGATION AT UN HAD NOT EXPLAINED BRAZILIAN POSITION WITH USUN. RESENDE RESPONDED THAT US DELEGATION AT LAST YEAR'S UNGA HAD BEEN COLD AND UNRESPONSIVE TO BRAZILIAN DEMARCHES AND FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD ARRIVED AT CONCLUSION THAT WE DID NOT SUPPORT BRAZILIAN POSITION. EMBASSY OFFICER REPLIED THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT WE WOULD PREFER ARGENTINE-BRAZILIAN CONTROVERSY TO BE SETTLED BILATERALLY, AND THAT WE DID NOT WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE IN UN BETWEEN TWO FRIENDLY POWERS. EVERYONE HAD BEEN PLEASED LAST YEAR AT APPARENT RESOLUTION OF ARGENTINE-BRAZILIAN DIFFERENCES AND WHAT BRAZILIAN DELEGATION HAD PROBABLY DETECTED WAS DESIRE TO AVOID TAKING SIDES IN ESSENTIALLY BILATERAL ISSUE.

5. ON NOVEMBER 23, BRAZILIAN PRESS CARRIED SPEECH OF BRAZILIAN UN DELEGATE FRAZAO AMPLIFYING SOME OF ABOVE POINTS AND DECLARING THAT BRAZIL WOULD ABSTAIN ON VOTE.
CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATURAL RESOURCES, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, BOUNDARY RIVERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BRASIL08003
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731115/aaaaakso.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USUN 4991
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Jan-2002 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <07 FEB 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 28TH GA--ITEM 50: ARGENTINE DRAFT RESOLUTION
TAGS: PFOR, SENV, AR, BR, UNGA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005